

How are Wisconsin families using their Child Tax Credit payments?

Evidence from Census Data

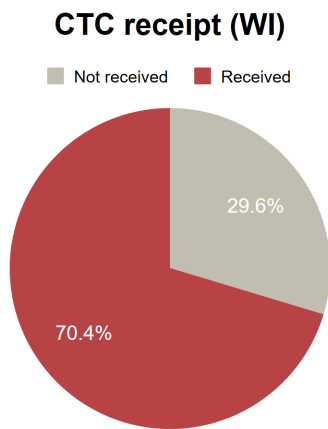
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The temporary expansion of the Child Tax Credit (CTC) is projected to cut American child poverty by more than half. The CTC expansion provides families with \$3,600 for every child in the household under the age of six, and \$3,000 for every child between the ages of six and 17. The vast majority of U.S. families with children are eligible for the CTC.

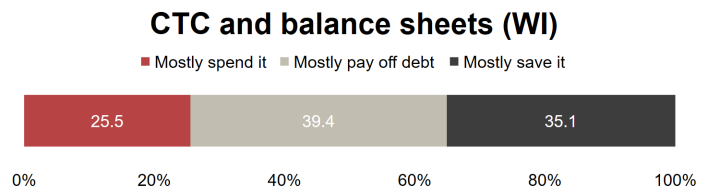
In this research brief, we use data from the Census Household Pulse survey to examine how a representative sample of Wisconsin families making less than \$150,000 a year report using their CTC payments. This survey was administered between July 21st and August 16th, covering the period in which the first two CTC payments were deposited in families' bank accounts.

Key Finding 1: 70% of eligible WI families received the CTC.

Key Finding 2: 39% of WI families reported mostly using their CTC to pay down debt, 35% mostly saved their CTC, and 26% mostly spent it.



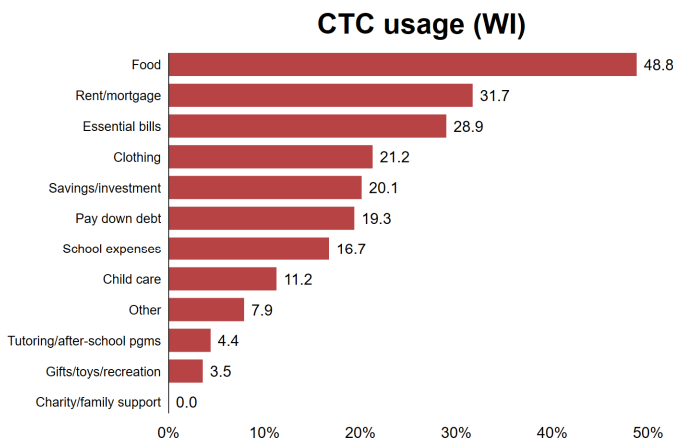
Sample size: 381



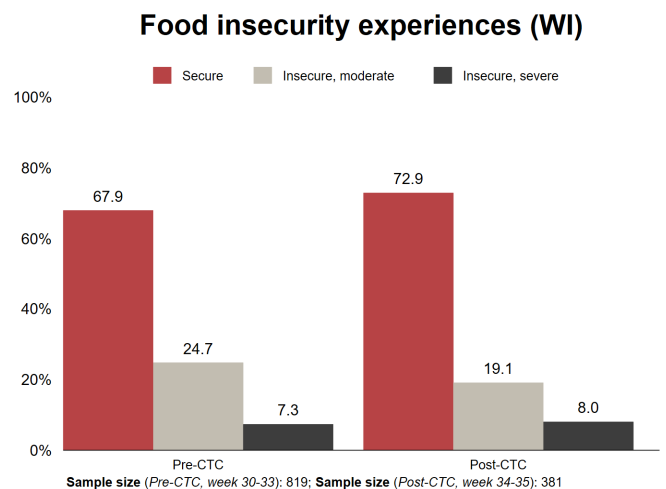
Sample size: 281

Key Finding 3: The most common uses of the CTC payments among WI families were purchasing food for their family (49%), housing costs (32%), and managing bills (29%).

Key Finding 4: Eligible WI families experienced a lower rate of moderate food insecurity and a higher rate of overall food security after CTC payments went out.

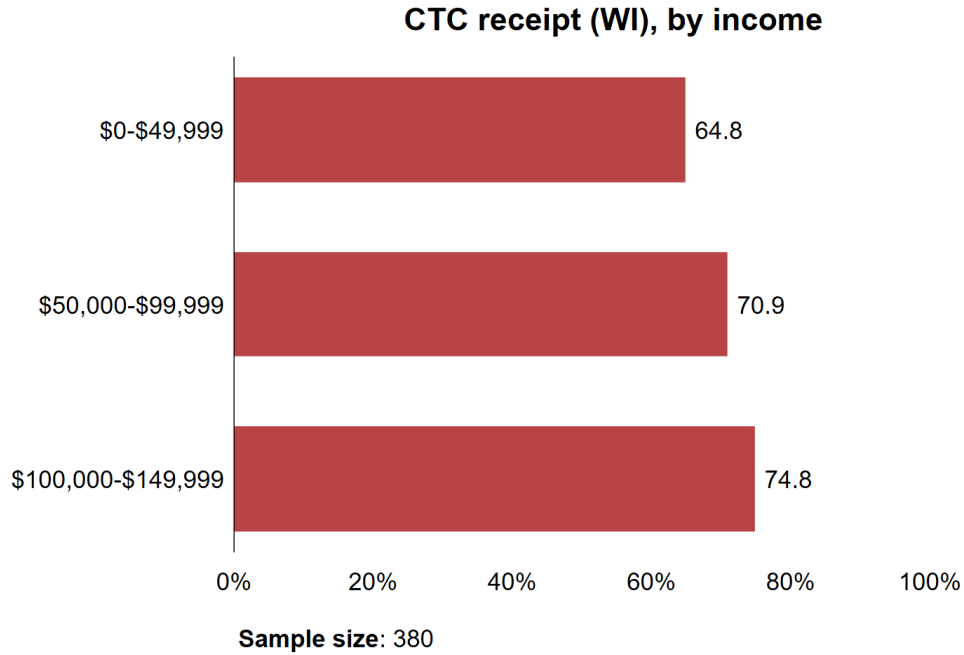


Sample size: 281



Sample size (Pre-CTC, week 30-33): 819; Sample size (Post-CTC, week 34-35): 381

Key Finding 5: Those in the upper income category received the CTC at the highest rate (75%) followed by those in the middle income category (71%).



Key Finding 6: WI families in the lowest income category were more likely to use their CTC funds to pay down debt relative to other groups, while those in the highest income category were more likely to report mostly saving CTC funds.

